



Carlos Jackson
Executive Director

**HOUSING AUTHORITY
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Commissioners

October 5, 2004

Honorable Board of Commissioners
Housing Authority of the
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Commissioners:

**ACCEPT SERVICE-LEARNING INITIATIVE PRODUCTIVITY INVESTMENT FUNDS
FROM THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES QUALITY AND PRODUCTIVITY
COMMISSION (ALL DISTRICTS)
(3 Vote)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the acceptance of Productivity Investment Funds to implement a two-year program to assist with the coordination, evaluation, and expansion of the Service-Learning Initiative at all County Housing Authority sites is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as described herein, because the proposed activities will not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.
2. Authorize the Executive Director to accept from the County of Los Angeles Quality and Productivity Commission \$135,000 in Productivity Investment Funds to implement the two-year program described above; and authorize the Executive Director to execute all documents required for receipt of the funds, and to incorporate the funds into the Housing Authority's approved Fiscal Year 2004-2005 budget, to assist with the coordination, evaluation, and eventual expansion of the Service-Learning Initiative.

3. Authorize the Executive Director to prepare and execute contracts with Service-Learning facilitators and an evaluator, in a combined total amount not to exceed \$135,000, to assist in coordination, evaluation, and expansion of the Service-Learning Initiative, in accordance with County requirements, following approval as to form by County Counsel.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The purpose of this action is to authorize the Housing Authority to accept from the Quality and Productivity Commission \$135,000 in Productivity Investment Funds to assist with the coordination, evaluation, and expansion of the Service-Learning Initiative, which brings college students to Housing Authority sites to assist residents with such activities as tutoring, job training, computer literacy, and senior life issues.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

There is no impact on the County general fund.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

In 2002, the Housing Authority developed a resident services program called the Service-Learning Initiative, which is an opportunity for college students to provide community service in their field of study at Housing Authority public housing sites, while earning academic credit. College students assist public housing residents with such activities as tutoring, job training, computer literacy, and senior life issues. The Housing Authority has now partnered with nine colleges and universities to create a countywide collaboration with public housing developments.

On August 10, 2004, the County's Quality and Productivity Commission approved \$135,000 in funds to assist with the coordination, evaluation, and eventual expansion of the Service-Learning Initiative. Service-Learning has grown tremendously since its inception in 2002, resulting in a need for increased regional coordination and a thorough evaluation. These funds will be used to contract with five part-time Service-Learning Facilitators and with a Service-Learning Evaluator, as there is a need to measure the impact of Service-Learning on public housing residents.

The Service-Learning Facilitators will coordinate the services for 67 housing developments, which includes all but one County Housing Authority site, the Carmelitos housing development in Long Beach. The Carmelitos Service-Learning program is being funded separately through other federal and private grants.

The Service-Learning evaluation would cover all 68 housing developments. The evaluation method would meet the requirements of the County's Performance Counts! initiative and of the participating colleges and universities. The results of this evaluation

will be used to guide the planning of Service-Learning development and the creation of a replicable model for expansion of this program to other County departments.

At its meeting of September 22, 2004, the Housing Commission recommended acceptance of the funds.

This letter has been reviewed by County Counsel.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION:

This project is exempt from the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) pursuant to 24 Code of Federal Regulations Part 58, Section 58.34 (a)(4) because it involves public service activities that will not have a physical impact or result in any physical changes to the environment. It is also exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines 15061 (b)(3) because CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

IMPACT ON CURRENT PROGRAMS:

The funds will enable the Housing Authority and participating colleges and universities to continue to serve public housing families and seniors through the Service-Learning Initiative, and to create a replicable model for use by other County departments.

Respectfully submitted,

CARLOS JACKSON
Executive Director